

What Can I Expect From VH2E?

You've joined VH2E. Now what does that really mean? It means that you've committed voluntarily to do your part in minimizing the environmental impacts of the healthcare industry. Specifically, you have committed to work on the VH2E-specific tasks for **mercury elimination, waste reduction, and toxic reduction**. These tasks are meant to be practical first steps in support of the national H2E's goals for the entire health care industry. No one expects your facility to be able to achieve these goals overnight. VH2E simply creates a starting point and a structure through which your facility can improve each year.

I've sent in our signed commitment pledge. Now what happens?

Below is a general timeline/chronology of what will happen next:

- **Confirmation Call.** VH2E staff (Tom Griffin) will call you to confirm receipt of your commitment, welcome you to the program, and answer any immediate questions you might have.
- **The Website.** Your facility will immediately be listed on the VH2E website (www.deq.state.va.us/p2/vh2e) as a "charter member". Our website would also serve as a "data hub" for any additional information that you would like to share about your progress – pictures, reduction data, news reports, websites, success stories.
- **VH2E/H2E Welcome Packet.** Once we log in your information, it will be shared with the national H2E program, and you will also be registered as an H2E "partner". You will receive your H2E welcome folder with a cover letter from H2E explaining how the two programs interface. You will have access to all of the H2E resources, assistance services, and award opportunities. Your facility contact will also be placed on the *H2E List-Serv*, an amazing, email-based information-sharing tool where you can get input and share information with H2E Coordinators from across the country!
- **Summary & Goals Form.** VH2E promises not to create undue paperwork for you! However, H2E will be tracking the VH2E program data, so we must ask you to fill out the *Annual Facility Assessment Summary & Goals Form* that will be included in the H2E welcome packet (or you may submit it on-line). This is a 2-page form that asks you to provide brief, baseline data for your current waste streams and to provide your program goals. For goals, you have already committed to the initial goals in the VH2E Commitment, and you

can simply reiterate those here. You will be asked to update this form on an annual basis so that we can track your progress. This is the how VH2E will track progress towards meeting the overall program goals!

- **Site Visit, Certificate, Posters & Stickers.** We would like to schedule a site visit of some kind to meet you in person and to discuss your facility's VH2E commitments. At that time, we will bring you a framed VH2E certificate for display at your facility, as well as VH2E posters & reminder stickers to assist in promoting the program and in reducing your regulated medical waste stream. The site visit can also be a time to discuss program design, assist with in-service training, or to have a mini-recognition event featuring the presentation of your VH2E certificate.
- **Kick-Off Media Event.** We are currently working with the Governor's Office and the US EPA to schedule a large-scale media event to officially announce the VH2E program and to recognize our "charter VH2E members". This media event would involve all of our program sponsors and feature a signing of the VH2E pledge by representatives of all the VH2E charter facilities.
- **Awards & Continuing Recognition.** All VH2E participants will be eligible for the annual awards from the national H2E. In addition, VH2E will recognize Virginia participants who report significant reductions for the year. Also, VH2E will provide recognition for all of its members who report their progress by submitting their *Annual Summary & Goals Form*. We are hoping to schedule some sort of yearly recognition luncheon for all participants.
- **Continuing Assistance.** Once you have made some progress or are embarking upon any significant projects, we would love to help you develop what we call a "VH2E Success Story" – a quick 1 or 2 page promotional piece that will serve as an information-sharing resource for other facilities. Success stories would be featured on the VH2E website and posted as a subset of your facility information.
- **Training & Information-Sharing.** In addition to all of the resources available on the VH2E and national H2E websites, the national H2E list-serv serves as a "find-the-answer" source for all of your facility-based questions. Also, VH2E plans to sponsor periodic training workshops and/or group teleconferences on timely subjects. An introductory teleconference for all charter members will be held prior to the upcoming kickoff event.

For more information, please contact VH2E's Tom Griffin at 804-698-4545 or rtgriffin@deq.state.va.us.